


KERATOCONUS INSIGHTS

23 - 25 March 2026

Lugano (Switzerland)

ESASO Scientific director: Mario Romano
Course Scientific coordinators: Vito Romano

Monday 23 March

08:45 - 09:00	Registration & welcome	
09:00 - 09:30	<p>Introduction on keratoconus</p> <p>Description of the topic: Overview of the objectives of the conference, the importance of comprehensive keratoconus management. Introduction to keratoconus, its epidemiology, pathophysiology, and impact on patients' quality of life.</p>	<p>Philipp Bänninger (moderator)</p>
09:30 - 10:00	<p>Screening & diagnosis of keratoconus</p> <p>Description of the topic: In-depth review of diagnostic tools such as corneal topography, corneal tomography, and corneal biomechanics. Comparison of their effectiveness in diagnosing and monitoring keratoconus progression.</p>	<p>Luca Pagano</p>
10:00 - 10:30	<p>Keratoconus Grading</p> <p>Description of the topic: Detailed explanation of keratoconus grading systems. Criteria and clinical relevance of each grading stage.</p>	<p>Pia Leon Virtual </p>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:30	<p>Risk Factors and Co-Pathologies</p> <p>Description of the topic: Examination of risk factors associated with keratoconus, including genetic predisposition and environmental influences. Discussion on co-pathologies such as allergies and atopic conditions, and their impact on disease progression and management.</p>	<p>Philipp Bänninger</p>

11:30 - 12:00	Diagnosis of keratoconus progression Description of the topic: review of diagnostic tools and comparison of their effectiveness in monitoring keratoconus progression.	Karl Anders Knutsson
12:00 - 12:30	Bring your cases: Trainees will bring clinical cases to discuss with others	Karl Anders Knutsson Philipp Bänninger Luca Pagano
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 - 18:00	DALK & PK training on pig corneas	Karl Anders Knutsson Philipp Bänninger Luca Pagano

Tuesday 24 March

09:00 - 09:30	Collagen crosslinking Description of the topic: Comprehensive discussion on CXL as a standard treatment for keratoconus. Mechanism, protocols (Dresden vs. accelerated), efficacy, safety, and long-term outcomes.	Saverio Luccarelli
09:30 - 10:00	Collagen crosslinking as refractive procedure Description of the topic: This talk will explore the use of CXL beyond its conventional role in halting the progression of keratoconus, in specific in patients with Radial Keratotomy, ectasia post LASIK	Miguel Rechichi (moderator)
10:00 - 10:30	Collagen crosslinking combined with other treatment Description of the topic: Overview of protocols combining CXL with other refractive procedures, such as PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy) and LASIK (Laser-Assisted in Situ Keratomileusis).	Miguel Rechichi
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:30	Corneal Allogenic Intrastromal Ring Segments Description of the topic: Detailed overview of CAIRS as an emerging	Saverio Luccarelli

treatment for keratoconus. Discussion on the procedure, indications, outcomes, and comparison with synthetic ring segments. Exploration of potential advantages and challenges.

Intrastromal Corneal Ring Segments

Carlos Gordillo

11:30 - 12:00

Description of the topic: Surgical technique of ICRS insertion, indications, patient selection, outcomes, complications, and post-operative care. Discussion on various types of rings and their biomechanical effects on the cornea.

Virtual 

6 Cases show

Miguel Rechichi,

12:00 - 12:30

Description of the topic: Presentation of complex keratoconus cases, discussion on management strategies, complications, and outcomes. Interactive Q&A with the audience.

Saverio Luccarelli

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 18:00

- Step-by-step guidance on performing CXL. Participants will observe live procedures and practice on simulation models. Discussion on post-operative care and management.
- Detailed demonstration of ICRS/CAIRS insertion techniques. Participants will perform simulated insertions, discuss patient selection, and review post-operative care protocols.

Miguel Rechichi,
Saverio Luccarelli

Wednesday 25 March

Advanced Surgical Treatments

Nicolas Alejandre

09:00 - 09:30

Description of the topic: Overview of advanced surgical interventions including Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty (DALK), Penetrating Keratoplasty (PK), and topography-guided photorefractive keratectomy (PRK). Indications, techniques, and outcomes.

PRK in keratoconus patients

Esameil Arbabi

09:30 - 10:00

Description of the topic: This talk will explore the use of Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) in keratoconus patients, focusing on its indications, techniques, and outcomes. The

	discussion will provide insights into how PRK can be utilized, often in combination with other treatments, to improve visual acuity and corneal stability in selected keratoconus cases	
10:00 - 10:30	<p>Penetrating keratoplasty in keratoconus patients: when and how</p> <p>Description of the topic: This talk will delve into the indications, techniques, and outcomes of Penetrating Keratoplasty (PK) in the management of advanced keratoconus. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of when PK is warranted and how it is performed to achieve optimal results</p>	Esameil Arbabi
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 11:30	<p>Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty (DALK) & Keratoconus</p> <p>Description of the topic : This talk will explore criteria for selecting keratoconus patients for DALK. Discussion of cases where DALK is preferred over other treatment options. Patient selection factors, including corneal thickness, presence of scarring, and severity of keratoconus.</p>	Vito Romano (Moderator)
11:30 - 12:00	<p>Emerging Therapies and Research</p> <p>Description of the topic: Insight into the latest research in keratoconus treatment, including gene therapy, new pharmacological treatments, and advanced surgical techniques. Discussion on ongoing clinical trials and future directions.</p>	Nicolas Alejandre
12:00 - 12:30	<p>6 Cases show</p> <p>Description of the topic: Presentation of complex keratoconus cases, discussion on management strategies, complications, and outcomes. Interactive Q&A with the audience.</p>	Vito Romano Nicolas Alejandre Esameil Arbabi
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	

An application will be made to EACCME® for CME accreditation of this event.

ETC- ESASO Training Center in Lugano, via Agli Orti 20, Viganello - Lugano

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